A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, March 4. 1708.

I Am not pressing you to begin the so much wish'd for Peace of Parties in this Nation, a Text I have been so long preaching upon, that I may suppose you weary of it; but I am arguing now, in order to preserve that little Advance we had made to a general Reconciliation, and prevent our falling back into Feuds and Discontents without Ground, making Causes where there are none, magnifying those we have, and filling our Mouths with Murmurs at one another; I shall speak at present to the Subject, I may tell you more of the Persons hereafter.

Blushing and asham'd, they that have any of the Grace of Modesty left; angry, grinning, envious, *as the Devil*, those that have none; the raving Spirit about the *Spanish* Deficiency is at last ceas'd; all that *could* be done, has been done, and I think, I may argue from it, we have Ground to believe and rest satisfy'd, all that *can* be done, *will* be done; as to Success, we have nothing to do about it at Home, but to wish for it, and pray for it, and take Care, that by our affronting Heaven in murmuring under his Goodness, we do not provoke him, to let our Enemies, *for our Infirmities as well as Corrections*, have Dominion over us.

Beaten thus shamefully from the Hold they had laid to our Home Management, now they fly to the Misery after our Allies, and if they have not done their Part, they think, they have sufficient Reason to murmur at the Government. ——

I will not undertake to vindicate all the Members of the present Alliance, as if every one had done their Part; it is but too

plain, that there has been, and I doubt, there will ſtill be, fatal Deficiencies; and if not, what means the new and vigorous Reſolutions of the Dyet of the Empire, empowering the Elector of *Hannover* to force the reſpective Defaulters by Military Execution; what means the ſeveral Memorials and Letters of the States General of the Elector of *Hannover*, and of our QUEEN, to the Emperor, to the Dyet, to the Circles, and to the Princes, concern'd to haſten and quicken them——And what means ſome Princes making Excuſes, others obtaining Diſcharges for their Omiſſions, &c.

But, *O ye Generation of Snarlers*, is this our Fault, or our Misfortune? Is *England* a Party to it, or has not the QUEEN all along ſtruggled with it, and left no Stone unturn'd to amend it? Who is it you blame for it, or what is it ye propoſe by it?

Let us come now to the particular Caſe; Suppoſe *Portugal* has not fully anſwer'd all they were engaged to do, as to Troops and Time of appearing, (tho' I do not grant it) pray let us examine two Things. 1. Has not her Majeſty as much as poſſible quickned, preſs'd and urg'd the Court of *Portugal* to a vigorous Performance, aſſiſted and encourag'd them to it, and done all poſſible on her Part? — *If there has been nothing wanting* on our Part, what then do you murmur at Home for? *If there has*, let us hear it, what is it, lay it before the Parliament, never grumble in Spirit, but ſpeak out, you ſee her Majeſty will cauſe it to be examin'd, to give you Satisfaction. 2. What would you have done, would you bring his *Portugueſe* Majeſty to the Bar of the Houſe? Would you quarrel with him, and throw him off as an Ally?——See how ſoon the *French* would take him up, and be glad of it; what Conditions would they not give him, what Subſidies would they not pay him, and are not they always waking and vigilant to win him from you, and perhaps at this very Moment in but too much Forwardneſs, preparing to force him from you, or ruin him——And is the King of *Portugal* another Duke of *Savoy*? Does he hazard all for his adhering to us, and perhaps do what his Strength and Ability permits? And muſt we come to a Scrutiny of his Muſter-Rolls?——Gentlemen, Gentlemen! There are Circumſtances to be conſider'd in all Caſes, and ſome will bear nicer Examinations than others; if the *Portugueſe* have not done all they were expected, yet if they have done all they could, or if they are endeavouring to make you Amends, as by her Majeſty's Anſwer to the Commons Addreſs ſeems to be plain—'Tis what you ought to be ſatisfy'd with, at leaſt for the preſent; we are told, the King of *Portugal* is regulating his Military Affairs, and putting his Troops upon a new Foot, in order to make them regular and fitter for Service than formerly; if this be true, we have Reaſon to believe that Prince very hearty in the Intereſt of the Allies, and her Majeſty has given a full Anſwer to the Query, as to what is paſt.

Next we come to the new King of *Spain*.—I do neither know nor examine the Particulars of the Objection; but ſuppoſe now, that King *Charles* has not in the Field, all the Forces he is oblig'd by Treaty to maintain; Are we not all Witneſſes to the Diſaſters and Diſappointments that Prince has met with, and are they not ſufficient to tell us, that perhaps he has not been able to perform every Stipulation?—Certainly, no Man will be ſo abſurd as to tell us, he is not hearty in the War with *Spain*, or that he is wilfully backward; is he not another Duke of *Savoy*? Are not his Fortunes, and Life, and Family embark'd in the Caſe? Is it poſſible he can be charg'd with any thing wilful? But if Neceſſities, if Diſappointments, and the Diſaſters made him deficient, it may be his Misfortune, but it cannot be a Charge upon him, unleſs you would ſuppoſe him fitter for an Hoſpital than a Kingdom.

Thus, if Men would give themſelves Time to conſider, they would ſhun the Diſtractions they bring the Publick into by their Clamours, and a Harmony of Power as well as of Parties, might joyn in every thing neceſſary both for Government and Defence.

But I come to the ſecond Objection, *viz.* Not puniſhing the Authors of Miſcarriage, and thoſe that misbehave, and this points in general at the Navy, and in particular at Captain

Captain *Kerr*——I had ſpoken to the laſt before now, but that I thought it was hard to puſh any Man's Misfortunes; and when Matters are in a Way of Juſtice, I think, it becomes no Man to aggravate the Circumſtances; but as it is now concluded, I can be no private Injury to ſpeak of the Affair in general; of which hereafter.

MISCELLANEA.

ONE Word more, and I have done; Mr. *Rehearſal*, pray don't be angry, and I'll give up all the Cauſes to you, by letting *your Fly Buzz*, as you call it, to the End of the Chapter.

Is it not a merry Tale to tell us, that GOD would not let the Children of *Iſrael* go out of *Egypt*, till they had *Pharoah*'s Conſent; and from thence to prove, that there is no reſiſting againſt a Crown'd Authority? Can it not as well be prov'd by the ſame Rule, that Thieving or Cheating is lawful, becauſe GOD commanded the *Iſraelites* to borrow their *Egyptian* Neighbours fine Things, Jewels, *&c.* and then run away with them?

Did GOD wait for *Pharoah*'s Conſent, or did he viſibly plague him, till he made him conſent? And would not Mr. *Rehearſal* call this in a human Power forcing his Conſent? —Conſent to a Thing, *as a ſimple Act of the Will*, is eſſential to every Act; and thus every Man, that is executed, conſents to lay his Head down on the Block, or have the Halter put over his Head: But did *Pharoah* give his Conſent in a free Act of his own Choice? If *Pharoah* conſented to let *Iſrael* go, King *James* conſented to abdicate the Crown, and it will be hard to prove any Violence in the World, but what has the ſame Conſent——Does not GOD Himſelf frequently ſay, he brought *Iſrael* out *by his Might*, and *by his Power*, with *a high Hand*, and *an out-ſtretched Arm*? Why did not the *Iſraelites*, like Paſſive-Fanatiques, when *Pharoah* purſued them, and they found it was againſt his Royal Conſent that they were going away, why did they not tamely lay down their Arms, and go back again?

This is the powerful Argument to ſupport Tyranny and Oppreſſion, and indeed it wants ſuch Aſſiſtance very much.

In the particular Caſes which he treats with me of, he forms imaginary Victories for himſelf, and then runs away, and boaſts of his Conqueſts, and of being unanſwerable; particularly in the Caſe of *Abraham Gill*, he ſays, I anſwer a Book without ſeeing it, in which he forgets himſelf, I do not pretend to anſwer or meddle with their Book, I think it not to the Caſe at all.

I clear'd the Caſe up in two Heads. 1. As to my Concern in it, where I think, I gave a Particular of the Concern I had in it, and referr'd him to one of the Gentlemen concern'd. 2. I ſtated the Queſtion ſo as he will not meddle with it, *according to his Cuſtom, not to ſpeak when he is run a-ground*; and as this is the State of the Caſe, I think, till it is reply'd to, there is no need to anſwer or read his Book. *Viz.* (1.) That let *Abraham Gill* be what they pleaſe, whether or no had they any Right to preſs him for a Soldier? That the Queſtion is, not whether *Gill* was a Whoremaſter or no, but whether he ought to have been preſs'd for a Soldier? (2.) That all the Villany they charge upon *Gill* did not move them to preſs him, till he reform'd, and became a *Diſſenter*, and that then they preſs'd him not as a Man of Crime, but as a *Diſſenter*, and as an Experiment upon the Party; now, ſince Mr. *Rehearſal* is ſo violent with his Book, and for an Anſwer to it, if he will anſwer thoſe previous Queſtions, I'll read and reply to the reſt, otherwiſe I ſee no need of it.

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